Payment of foodgrains as wages for anti-poverty programmes

*471. SHRI O.J. JOSEPH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision to earmark a million tonnes of foodgrains for payment as wages for work on Government's anti-poverty programmes; and

(b) if so, by what criterion the quantum of one million has been fixed for the above purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) and (b) Taking into account the foodgrains availability with the Government and the working period available during the current year for utilising the foodgrains, it has been decided to allocate one million tonnes of additional wheat under the Plan schemes of National Rural Employment Programme (NREP) and Rural Landless Employment Gurantee Programme (RLEGP) during 1985-86 in order to expand the coverage of these employment programmes.

Violation of Urban land Ceiling Regulation In Delhi

*472. SHRI L. GANESAN:
SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any complaints|memorandum have been received by Government regarding the violation of land ceiling regulations ni Delhi by landlords|officials in the past;

(b) if so, what is the number of such complaints received during the last three years, year-wise and block-wise;

(c) what action was taken on each of the complaints; and

(d) whether any officials were found guilty, if so, what are the details thereof including the action taken by Government against the guilty officials?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the Sabha.

Safety system of fertilizer plants

*473. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent gas leak from the plant of Shriram Food and Fertilisers, of Delhi has shown that there is scope for improvement and upgradation of the existing safety-system of fertiliser plants and make them fool proof;

(b) whether any expert study of the safety system of the existing fertiliser units in the country has been undertaken if so, what are the different aspects thereof particularly in the sphere of emission of cyanide bearing effluents;

(c) if not, what other steps are being taken in this behalf to monitor the pollution control systems around the fertiliser plants?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) The Government has been fully aware of the necessity for continuous upgradation of the existing safety systems of chemical and fertilizer plants even before recent unfortunate incident in the factory of M|s Shriram Foods & Fertilizer Industries.

(b) There is no cyande pollution from fertilizer factories. However, various steps have been initiated for upgradation of existing systems of safety for fertilizer plants to make them foolproof.

An inter-ministerial group has been constituted to examine the entire aspect of maintenance of safety in selected hazardous units. All fertilizer factory management are required to carry out hazard and safety audit of their plants and submit their report to the Government. A 'focal' point has been designated in the Deptt. of Fertilizer for follow-up action. Examination of safety systems, using experts, has been started and it covers prevention| minimisation of accidental release of toxic gases or liquids into the environment.